

REMARKS

The claims are amended in response to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as discussed below. The amendments to Claim 1 also are intended to further define the present invention over the art of record. Claims 1-9 remain, with no claim previously allowed.

Considering first the formal rejections, the claims are amended to replace the closed language "consists of" with -- comprising--.

Claim 3 is amended to remove the "and/or" wording and to make clear that the nonwoven material is reinforced by at least one of air or water jets.

Claim 4 is amended to correct the wording of the unit identification, and Claims 5 and 6 are rewritten in proper Markush format.

Claim 7 is amended to delete the narrower range, leaving the original broader range in that Claim.

With the foregoing amendments, all claims are believed to comply with 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-9 were rejected as unpatentable over *Mamish* (5,227,225). The applicant respectfully traverses this rejection at least as possibly applied to amended Claim 1 and the claims dependent therefrom.

Claim 1 now defines a textile adhesive tape comprising an adhesive tape support formed by a textile, mechanically reinforced, uninterrupted nonwoven material, with the nonwoven material having a basis weight of not more than 60g/m² and impregnated with

a thermoplastic resin. An adhesive coating is on at least one side of the tape support.

Mamish discloses a method for making masking tapes. However, the differences between the masking tape taught by *Mamish*, and the textile adhesive tape of the present invention, are substantial and would not have directed one of ordinary skill toward the present invention. To begin with, *Mamish* conspicuously lacks the requirement of Claim 1 for an adhesive tape support formed by an uninterrupted textile, mechanically reinforced nonwoven material. To the contrary, *Mamish* teaches that his nonwoven material "is not present as a discrete layer." (Column 1, lines 56 and 57, emphasis added). Instead, his nonwoven nonlayer is characterized as "embedded" in a polyolefinic backing layer. This masking-tape construction taught by *Mamish* would have directed one of ordinary skill *away from* the invention disclosed and claimed by the present applicant, wherein the tape support is a discrete uninterrupted and mechanically reinforced material.

The foregoing and certain other differences between the invented tape and the tape of *Mamish* are set forth in the following table:

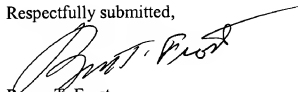
| Distinguishing Features | Mamish (US 5,227,225) | Present Invention |
|--|--|--|
| Number of layers | at least 3; col. 1, l. 51-54, | at least 2; claim 1 |
| Number of backing/ support layers | preferably 2 (HDPE/LDPE), col. 1, l. 53, col. 2, l. 31 | 1; claim 1 |
| Kind of backing/ Support | polyethylene or other polyolefine, col. 2, l. 15-22 | nonwoven; claim 1 |
| Binding within the support | mechanical (laminated layers); col. 1, l. 61-62 | chemical cohesion of the nonwoven fibers; page 1, ll. 15-18 |
| Specific basis weight of nonwoven | "light" - unspecified, may be > 60 g/m ² , col. 1, l. 53 | 60 g/m ² , claim 1 |
| Continuity of the nonwoven fabric | not desired; col. 1, 56-57 | yes, indispensable ("hazard of hole formation"); pg. 2, ll. 13-14, amended claim 1 |
| Impregnation | no (coating, coextrusion); col. 2, l. 34 | yes (dipping, spray); pg. 2, l. 16 |
| Interaction resin/nonwoven | nonwoven is "embedded" in the resin (backing layer surrounds the nonwoven); col. 1, l. 61 | nonwoven is penetrated by the resin (impregnation - claim 1 - leads to a resin/fiber unit) |
| Presence of at least one thermoplastic resin layer | yes, indispensable: "polyolefinic backing layer (2)", col. 1, l. 53, claim 1 | No |
| Crossdirection tear/ tensile strength | "poor"; col. 2, l. 2-4 | variable depending on resin concentration within the nonwoven; pg. 2, ll. 18-20 |

Continuity of the uninterrupted mechanically reinforced textile material, in the overall structural and functional combination defined by Claim 1, is an important aspect of

the present invention, but *Mamish* directs one of ordinary skill away from that feature and from the overall invention. Accordingly, Claim 1 and the dependent claims are not obvious over *Mamish*.

The foregoing is submitted as a complete response to the Office Action identified above. This application should now be in condition for allowance, and the applicant solicits a notice to that affect.

Respectfully submitted,



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Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

Amendments in the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Amended) Textile adhesive tape comprising: [consisting of]
an adhesive tape support (1), formed by a textile, mechanically
reinforced, uninterrupted nonwoven material; and
an adhesive coating (2) at least at one side of said tape support;
[characterized by the fact that] wherein the nonwoven material has a
[basic] basis weight of not more than 60 g/m² and is impregnated with a thermoplastic resin.

3. (Amended) Adhesive tape according to Claim 1, characterized by the
fact that the nonwoven material is reinforced by at least one of air [and/or] or water jets.

4. (Twice Amended) Adhesive tape according to Claim 1,
characterized by the fact that the basis weight of the impregnation is about 1 to 5 [g'm²]
g/m².

5. (Twice Amended) Adhesive tape according to Claim 1,
characterized by the fact that the nonwoven material [consists of] comprises viscose fibers,
polyester fibers, [or] propylene fibers, or [from] a fiber blend of at least two of the
aforementioned fiber materials.

6. (Twice Amended) Adhesive tape according to Claim 1,
characterized by the fact that the adhesive coating (2) [uses] is a natural rubber adhesive, a
synthetic rubber adhesive, an acrylate adhesive, or a UV-crosslinkable acrylate adhesive.

7. (Twice Amended) Adhesive tape according to Claim 1,

characterized by the fact that the basis weight of the adhesive coating (2) is about 90 to 150 g/m² [, especially 100 g/m² to 130 g/m²].

8. (Twice Amended) Adhesive tape according to Claim 1, characterized by the fact that a PET nonwoven having a basis weight of 40 g/m² is used as the textile nonwoven material and that the adhesive coating [consists of] comprises a synthetic rubber adhesive with a basis weight of 130 g/m².

9. (Twice Amended) Adhesive tape according to Claim 1, characterized by the fact that the textile nonwoven [consists of] comprises a PET nonwoven and has a basis weight of 50 g/m² and that the adhesive coating [consists of] comprises a UV-crosslinkable acrylate adhesive with a basis weight of 150 g/m².